

to Government of West Bengal for Darjeeling hill areas under surveys and study for the following programmes:

- (a) Comprehensive survey of current status of the source of pollution and other threats posed to the preservation of the natural lake systems of Senchal and Mirik by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.
- (b) Comprehensive Health and Beneficiary Needs assessment survey in Hill areas under Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

Payment of Minimum Wages

4945. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in Visakhapatnam has contested Waltair Railway Division for not paying minimum wages to the porters in Railway Parcel Division as reported in 'Newstime' dated March 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to compensate the porters under the minimum wages act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The news item appearing in 'Newstime' dated 20th March, 1997 pertained to the press conference held by RLC (C), Hyderabad on 19th March, 97 at Visakhapatnam, to give wide publicity for enforcement of statutory minimum wages. The case regarding payment of minimum wages to porters of railways in Waltair Division was taken up before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and on whose direction, the railway administration agreed to pay minimum wages to porters. However, the matter on certain related issues is sub judice.

Drinking Water Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

4946. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drinking water supply scheme will be taken up in 10 districts of Andhra Pradesh with financial assistance of the Government of Netherlands;

(b) if so, the total amount the Netherlands Government has agreed to provide to the State Government for implementing the scheme; and

(c) the districts proposed to be covered under the Scheme and the total amount required for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No such scheme has been received by this Ministry from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. As per available informations, the Nalgonda District Water Supply Project of Andhra Pradesh was proposed by the Deptt. of Economics Affairs to the Government of Netherlands for assistance in November, 1990, but was not finally approved.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

[Translation]

Private Power Projects

4947. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide any concession to private power producers for expansion of power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of power projects running in Gujarat in which concession is proposed to be given to the private power producers;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments in this regard particularly to Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The Government of India have formulated a general policy for attracting private sector participation in the power sector and, in the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992, as amended from time to time, set forth the principles for determination of tariff from generating stations in the private sector. This notification applies to all States, including Gujarat. In a circular letter issued to all the States in January, 1997, the Government have decided that for extension to projects being implemented by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), regardless of the route through which the IPP was selected for setting up the initial phase, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route, with selection of the EPC/turn-key contractor through the International competitive bidding route, may be followed.

Power Projects in Kerala

4948. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some power projects from Kerala are pending with the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of projects cleared by the Central Electricity Authority during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have taken any initiation to provide the World Bank loan to the State for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) As on 31.3.1997, no proposal for setting up power projects either in the public sector or in the private sector, received from the Government of Kerala, is pending with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for techno economic clearance.

(c) Two power projects namely DG sets at Brahmapuram (5x20 MW) and DG Sets at Kozikode (6X20 MW) have been given investment approval during the last three years.